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# Any Time Is Math Time

Use these quick activities to keep students' minds on math at the beginning or end of classtime, as they are lining up to change classes, or any time you have a few minutes to fill.

## 1. CLASS LINEUP

When students are in a line, ask them to start at one end of the line and count backward from 100 by 5s. Now reverse and have them count from the other end of the line.

## 2. QUICK Q & A

Use these and other quick questions.

- ◆ Name one way that you've seen someone use math outside of school.
- ◆ Which is closest to your height: 100 millimeters, 100 centimeters, or 100 meters?
- ◆ Which is greater:  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a pizza or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a pizza?
- ◆ Close your eyes and think: How many 1's are on a clockface?
- ◆ Which would you rather have: 10 quarters or 25 dimes?
- ◆ Which is closer to today's date: April 1 or October 1?



## 3. MATHMA PROBLEMS

Tell students that Mathma is a creature from outer space. They can make up silly classroom math problems about Mathma. Give them a few examples to get them started:

- ◆ There were 25 books on the shelf. Mathma ate 16. How many books are left?
- ◆ What if Mathma brought 17 of her friends to join our class. How many students would we have?

## 4. BREAKIN' UP IS HARD TO DO

Ask students how many ways the class could break into groups of equal size. If your class size makes this impossible, what size groups can be made that will leave fewest students unassigned to a group? Try this on different days, as different numbers of students are absent.

## 5. TICK TOCK!

Have students look at the clock and tell you what time it will be in one hour. What time was it one hour ago?



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More quick activities to keep students' minds on math.

## 6. MONEY GUESS

Display a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. Tell students you'll put some coins in one hand and some in the other. Do so. Then ask them to guess which hand holds the coins of greater total value. If they guess incorrectly, start again. If they guess correctly, display the coins in that hand and ask them to tell you the total value of the coins in the other hand.

## 7. TWENTY QUESTIONS

Tell students you're thinking of a number between 1 and 100. Ask them to guess your number in twenty questions; challenge them to ask the fewest possible questions. Remind them to use what they know about numbers, multiples of numbers, ranges of numbers, greater than and less than, etc.

## 8. NEXT NUMBER ADDITION

When students are in line, give a starting number. Ask students to count off by adding a given number to the start number. For example, if you begin at 13 and each student is to add 3, the first student will be 16, the next 19, the next 22, and so on.

## 9. NUMBER, PLEASE

Have students add the digits in their phone numbers (no pencils and paper allowed!). Whose number is greatest? Least? Do any have the same sums?



## 10. CLASS STATS

Use the number of students in your class on a given day to ask questions such as:

- ◆ How many hats for each person to wear 1?
- ◆ How many pens for each person to have 2?
- ◆ How many pieces of paper for each person to have 5?
- ◆ How many tables if 4 were going to sit at a table?